

INSIGHTS

Volume 5: Issue 1 January-February 2015

SC Department of Employment and Workforce

Labor Market Information

Economic Indicators

February 2015 - Seasonally Adjusted (SA)

	United States	SC
Labor Force	157,002,000	2,238,648
Employed	148,297,000	2,090,232
Unemployed	8,705,000	148,416
Unemployed Rate	5.5%	6.6%

Average Hours & Earnings

	United States (SA)	SC (Unadj.)
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$1,025.41	\$777.71
Avg. Weekly Hours	41.0	41.7
Avg. Hourly Wage	\$ 25.01	\$ 18.65

Top Job Growth by MSA (SA)

	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Charleston MSA	1.49%	3.52%
Columbia MSA	1.49%	3.38%
Sumter MSA	0.51%	1.80%
Florence MSA	0.23%	3.03%

Employment to Population Ratio (SA)

	2015	2014
U.S. Population Ratio	59.3%	58.8%
S.C. Population Ratio	55.1%	54.4%

Labor Force Participation Rate (SA)

	Feb	Jan	% Change
U.S. Participation Rate	62.8%	62.9%	-0.1%
S.C. Participation Rate	59.0%	58.8%	0.2%

United States Consumer Price Index

12-Month CPI	0.0%
--------------	------

HIGHLIGHTS

- Labor force hits historic level
- Number of employed increases by over 10,000
- Unemployment rate has remained stable for last six months
- No payroll employment decreases since last year

View the

[S.C. Employment Situation Report](#)

Employment
10,432



Unemployment
1,476



Unemployment
Rate
0.0%



Employment Climb Continues, Unemployment Rate Remains Level in February

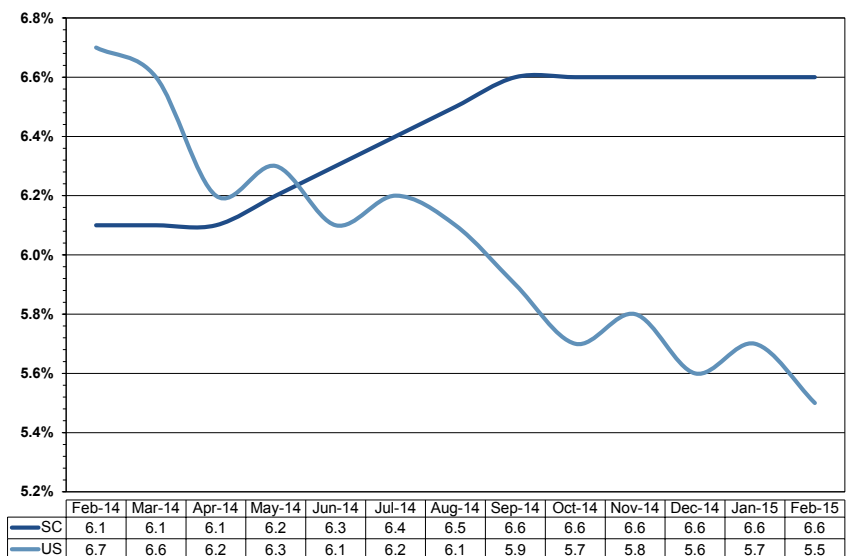
The state's unemployment rate has remained steady over the past six months at 6.6 percent as employment growth remains robust. People are not only entering the labor force at historic levels but are finding employment.

The number of South Carolinians working continues to march upward and reached another historic high in February. The estimated number of employed people was 2,090,232, an increase of 10,432 compared to January's estimate. The labor force level was estimated at 2,238,648 people, an increase of 11,908 people over the month.

The number of unemployed persons was 148,416, showing modest increase since January of 1,476 people.

Nationally, the unemployment rate decreased to 5.5 percent from January's 5.7 percent.

Unemployment Rates in South Carolina and The United States
February 2014 – February 2015 Seasonally Adjusted



Insights is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current month's estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revision. All estimates are projected from a first quarter 2014 benchmark. To subscribe to *Insights*, please email bidcustomerservice@dew.sc.gov or to provide feedback please click on the [BID Customer Feedback Form](#).

State Unemployment Rates

District Of Columbia	7.8
Nevada	7.1
Mississippi	7.0
California	6.7
Louisiana	6.7
<u>South Carolina</u>	<u>6.6</u>
Tennessee	6.6
Arizona	6.5
Connecticut	6.4
New Jersey	6.4
Alaska	6.3
Georgia	6.3
Rhode Island	6.3
Washington	6.3
West Virginia	6.1
Illinois	6.0
New Mexico	6.0
Indiana	5.9
Michigan	5.9
Alabama	5.8
New York	5.8
Oregon	5.8
Florida	5.6
Arkansas	5.5
Maryland	5.5
Missouri	5.5
<u>United States</u>	<u>5.5</u>
North Carolina	5.3
Kentucky	5.2
Pennsylvania	5.2
Ohio	5.1
Maine	5.0
Massachusetts	4.9
Delaware	4.8
Wisconsin	4.8
Virginia	4.7
Montana	4.3
Texas	4.3
Colorado	4.2
Kansas	4.2
Hawaii	4.1
Iowa	4.1
Wyoming	4.0
Idaho	3.9
New Hampshire	3.9
Oklahoma	3.9
Vermont	3.9
Minnesota	3.7
South Dakota	3.4
Utah	3.4
North Dakota	2.9
Nebraska	2.7

South Carolina's Ranking Tied for 6th of 51 in February

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), 26 states experienced decreases in their unemployment rates, six states and the District of Columbia had increases, and 18 states remained unchanged. In February, South Carolina's rate ranked 6th highest out of 51. In the Southeast region, South Carolina's rate remained lower than Mississippi.

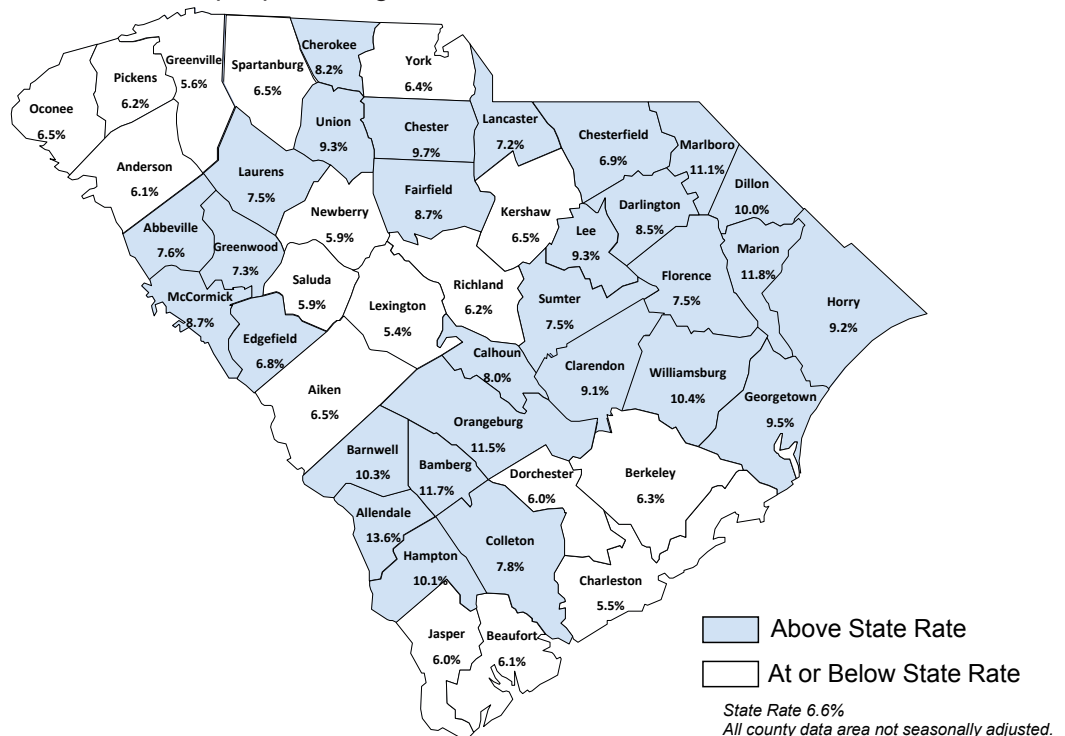
The most significant over-the-month acceleration in employment occurred in Kansas, South Dakota and Utah at 0.7 percent each. The largest reduction in employment was in Rhode Island at -0.6 percent, followed by Alaska and West Virginia at -0.3 percent each.

Over the year, non-farm employment increased in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The largest over-the-year uptrend occurred in Utah at 4.2 percent, followed by North Dakota at 4.0 percent and Georgia at 3.8 percent.

February Unemployment Rate by County

Not-seasonally adjusted county unemployment rates were mixed in February. Over the month, 22 counties noted declines; 14 counties remained flat; 10 counties experienced rate increases. Rates ranged from 13.6 percent in Allendale County to 5.4 percent in Lexington County. Lexington County experienced the largest growth with nearly 1,875 people gaining employment. Greenville and Horry counties noted solid gains as well with both seeing increases in excess of 1,600 people finding work.

Highest County Unemployment Rate		Lowest County Unemployment Rate	
Allendale	13.6%	Lexington	5.4%
Marion	11.8%	Charleston	5.5%
Bamberg	11.7%	Greenville	5.6%
Orangeburg	11.5%	Newberry	5.9%
Marlboro	11.1%	Saluda	5.9%



Employment Changes by County December 2014 through February 2015

County	Employment			Net Change From	
	Feb 2015	Jan 2015	Dec 2014	Jan '15 - Feb '15	Dec '14 - Jan '15
Abbeville	9,741	9,709	10,262	32	-553
Aiken	68,890	68,768	72,715	122	-3,947
Allendale	2,541	2,609	2,913	-68	-304
Anderson	81,756	81,187	83,675	569	-2,488
Bamberg	4,929	5,008	5,163	-79	-155
Barnwell	7,988	8,034	7,541	-46	493
Beaufort	64,485	64,109	62,852	376	1,257
Berkeley	85,447	83,943	82,556	1,504	1,387
Calhoun	6,434	6,382	5,930	52	452
Charleston	181,984	178,764	170,141	3,220	8,623
Cherokee	21,823	21,772	23,774	51	-2,002
Chester	12,496	12,473	13,718	23	-1,245
Chesterfield	19,806	19,914	17,649	-108	2,265
Clarendon	11,865	12,001	11,249	-136	752
Colleton	15,608	15,578	16,014	30	-436
Darlington	27,533	27,564	27,987	-31	-423
Dillon	11,339	11,519	11,584	-180	-65
Dorchester	66,192	65,053	66,008	1,139	-955
Edgefield	9,880	9,936	10,266	-56	-330
Fairfield	9,272	9,172	9,262	100	-90
Florence	60,101	59,783	58,683	318	1,100
Georgetown	23,041	23,131	27,717	-90	-4,586
Greenville	222,313	220,628	220,891	1,685	-263
Greenwood	29,460	29,473	28,998	-13	475
Hampton	7,651	7,783	7,175	-132	608
Horry	119,041	117,437	116,084	1,604	1,353
Jasper	10,583	10,516	10,187	67	329
Kershaw	26,501	26,198	27,330	303	-1,132
Lancaster	32,364	32,241	31,589	123	652
Laurens	27,993	27,849	28,328	144	-479
Lee	5,870	5,919	7,498	-49	-1,579
Lexington	133,361	131,484	127,475	1,877	4,009
McCormick	3,275	3,268	3,056	7	212
Marion	11,410	11,444	10,161	-34	1,283
Marlboro	8,861	8,903	10,334	-42	-1,431
Newberry	17,336	17,538	17,419	-202	119
Oconee	32,252	32,316	30,052	-64	2,264
Orangeburg	33,759	33,893	36,228	-134	-2,335
Pickens	51,891	51,472	54,717	419	-3,245
Richland	183,137	180,040	170,253	3,097	9,787
Saluda	8,141	8,252	8,327	-111	-75
Spartanburg	128,380	127,585	132,289	795	-4,704
Sumter	41,030	40,955	41,135	75	-180
Union	10,673	10,606	10,855	67	-249
Williamsburg	11,711	11,795	14,490	-84	-2,695
York	114,701	113,998	105,338	703	8,660

South Carolina Non-Farm Employment Trends for February

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted)

February's seasonally adjusted, non-farm payroll employment increased by 10,400 since January to reach the level of 1,988,100. South Carolina's most prominent increase occurred in Leisure and Hospitality (+4,000) with other gains in Construction (+2,500); Professional and Business Services (+1,700); Government (+1,400); and Manufacturing (+1,100). Additional increases were noted in Education and Health Services (+800) and Other Services (+300). Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-700); Financial Activities (-500); and Information (-200) reported declines.

Compared to a year ago, seasonally adjusted, non-farm jobs were up 62,800. Large growth was noted in Professional and Business Services (+13,400); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+12,400); and Leisure and Hospitality (+11,400). Additional gains were seen in Education and Health Services (+7,300); Government (+5,800); Manufacturing (+5,700); Construction (+4,300); and Other Services (+1,700) with smaller gains in Financial Activities (+500) and Information (+200). There were no declining industries during this period.

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Not-Seasonally Adjusted)

The not-seasonally adjusted, non-farm payroll employment in February reported an over-the-month upturn of 20,000 to a total of 1,964,300. Growth was concentrated in Leisure and Hospitality (+6,100); Government (+5,800); Professional and Business Services (+4,300); Education and Health Services (+2,900); Construction (+2,000); and Manufacturing (+800). Modest losses were in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-900); Financial Activities (-700); Information (-200); and Other Services (-100).

From February 2014 to February 2015, not-seasonally adjusted, non-farm jobs were up 65,500 overall in the state. Large gains came in Professional and Business Services (+13,100); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+13,000); Leisure and Hospitality (+12,500); Education and Health Services (+7,300); Government (+6,200); Manufacturing (+5,500); and Construction (+4,700). Smaller gains were reported in Financial Activities (+2,100); Other Services (+1,500); Information (+400); and Natural Resources and Mining (+100). No industries experienced declines during this time period.

CES data for MSAs

Metropolitan Statistical Areas' (MSAs) seasonally adjusted, total non-farm payroll employment from January to February 2015 saw increases in employment with the largest upturn in Columbia (+5,700), followed by Charleston (+4,900), Florence (+200), and Sumter (+200).

Every MSA saw seasonally adjusted, payroll employment growth compared to last year. The largest increase was in Columbia (+12,900), trailed by increases in Charleston (+11,600), Florence (+2,600), and Sumter (+700).

As a result of the new MSAs redefinition, there are only four South Carolina MSAs publishable under non-farm, seasonally adjusted employment. MSAs are defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget and are the result of the latest published standards from Census Bureau data. (The standards for defining the areas are reviewed and revised once every 10 years prior to each decennial census). Therefore, with the release of the 2014 benchmark, Current Employment Statistics will incorporate the updates to area definitions based on the new standards from the 2010 Census. As a result of the new standards, breaks have been created in the time series for these areas. Due to the breaks in the time series, BLS will be unable to publish all of the redefined areas on a seasonally adjusted basis. The South Carolina areas, based on the 2010 standards and Census Bureau data, were defined in February 2013.

With the MSA redefinition, a new area was defined, and changes have occurred in three South Carolina not-seasonally adjusted MSAs. The new MSA is Hilton Head Island-Bluffton. The changed MSAs are as follows: Greenville MSA now incorporates Anderson County, thereby, eliminating the Anderson MSA; Spartanburg now includes Union County; and Myrtle Beach Conway-North Myrtle Beach now includes Brunswick County, N.C.

To see the monthly data series, go to

www.SCWorkforceInfo.com

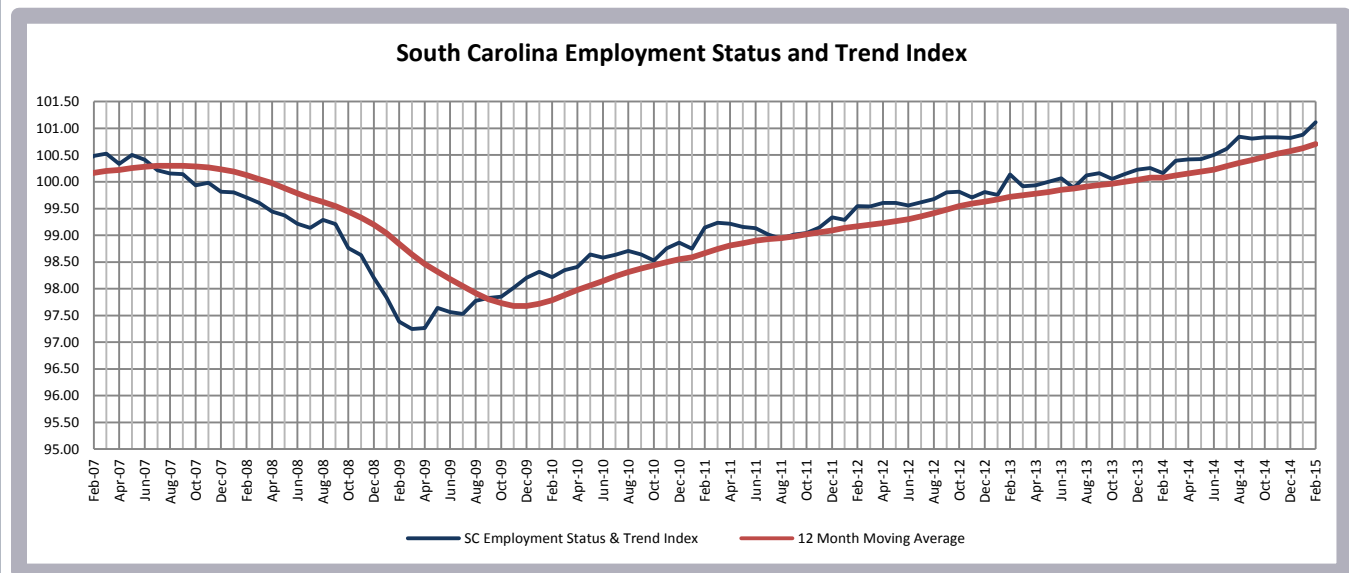
(Employment and Wage Data section)

South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index Keeps Setting New Records

After gaining 0.06 percent in January, the South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index (SCESTI) jumped 0.23 percent in February, ending the first two months of 2015 at a new life-time high of 101.11. Among the index components, Unemployment Initial Claims made the biggest improvements, dropping for both months (0.88 and 40.59 percent for January and February respectively). The Conference Board's Help Wanted Online Ads was also higher, gaining 1.7 percent in January and 9.33 percent in February. Climbing for both January and February was the Conference Board's US Employment Trend Index, moving up 0.3 and 0.11 percent respectively. The Conference Board's US Consumer Confidence Index rose 12.1 percent in January but dropped 7.13 percent in February. The component that dragged down SCESTI for both January and February was Manufacturing Average Weekly Hours, which dropped 1.41 and 0.48 percent respectively.

Compared with corresponding months in 2014, SCESTI was 0.62 percent higher in January and 0.95 percent higher in February. The Conference Board's US Consumer Confidence Index climbed 30.73 and 23.12 percent for January and February respectively. Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims improved 14.96 and 26.51 percent for January and February, respectively. The Conference Board's US Employment Trend Index rose 7.42 in January and 6.69 percent in February. The Conference Board's SC Help Wanted Online Ads advanced 4.48 and 12.96 percent in January and February respectively; and Manufacturing Average Weekly Hours was unchanged for January while surging 6.92 percent in February.

After a great record-breaking 2014, SCESTI keeps jumping higher for the first two months of 2015, setting new all-time records. Standing at 101.11, SCESTI has set the stage for a steady improving employment situation for South Carolina in the next three to six months.

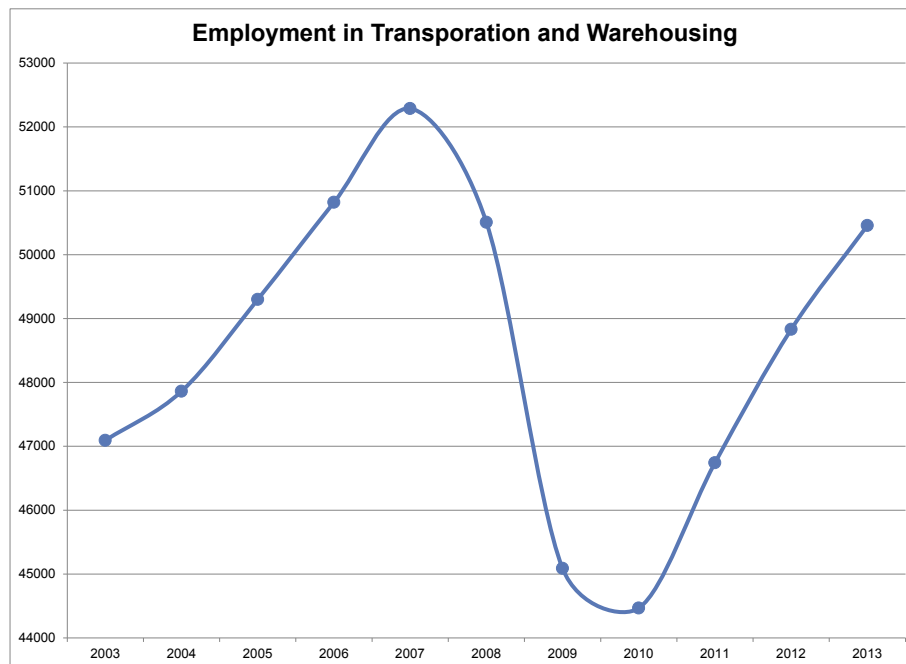


Transportation and Warehousing

The economy in South Carolina continues to thrive. The Transportation, Distribution and Logistics sector is on the move and has proven to be among one of the fastest-growing industries in South Carolina. Thousands of jobs and \$229 million in capital investments alone have been created by distribution and logistics companies. In 2013, the Transportation and Warehousing industry in South Carolina reached an employment level of 58,228, recording at 2,967 below the record high employment level of 61,195 in 2007.

Employment Trends

The state's proximity to all of the Southeast's major metropolitan areas offers locations to distribution centers to meet the demand of timely delivery. The transportation and warehousing industry has increased consistently from 2010 to 2014, thus bringing the overall annual growth rate of employment to 4.77 percent in 2014. The long-term industry employment estimate for Transportation and Warehousing in 2012 was 50,860. The employment projection for 2022 stands at 59,728, an annual average employment change of 886 (1.6 percent).



Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Subsectors

- North American Industry Classification System (NAICS): (48) added an average of 19,170 jobs from Truck Transportation (484), 15,634 from Warehousing and Storage (493), 8,868 from Support Activities for Transportation (488), and 6,352 from Couriers and Messengers (492).

In 3rd quarter 2014, Warehousing and Storage subsector added an average employment of 2,035 when compared to the same time a year ago. During that same time, Transportation and Warehousing estimated average employment level was 61,911.

The Port of Charleston is ranked the eighth largest Customs district in the United States for deep-water foreign trade. In 2014, the South Carolina Department of Commerce reported that with "[the] proximity to major transportation infrastructure and deep-water port facilities" Giti Tire, one of the world's largest tire companies, announced that it would build its first North American facility in South Carolina. The \$560 million investment is expected to generate 1,700 new jobs over the next 10 years. The state's ports could see a major impact throughout the supply chain, ultimately increasing jobs in the Transportation, Distribution and Logistics sectors.

Top Occupations	Counties with the highest average employment for Transportation and Warehousing in South Carolina 3rd Quarter 2014		
	Rank	Area Name	Employment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation and Material Moving Occupations • Motor Vehicle Operators • Material Moving Workers • Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers • Office and Administrative Support Occupations • Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand • Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations • Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators • Light Truck or Delivery Services Drivers • Vehicle and Mobile Equipment Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers 	1	Charleston	9,934
	2	Greenville	8,200
	3	Lexington	7,119
	4	Spartanburg	6,223
	5	Richland	2,887
	6	Berkeley	2,560
	7	Florence	2,004
	8	York	1,907
	9	Horry	1,752
	10	Anderson	1,638
<i>Source: Occupational Employment Statistics</i>	<i>Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages</i>		

Outlook

Prominent companies are investing in South Carolina because of tax credits and competitive wages. South Carolina has attracted international businesses to invest heavily in our economy. Recent examples include:

- Rite Aid Distribution Center, a \$90-million investment and 600 new jobs in Spartanburg County.
- Coastal Logistics Group, a \$1.2-million investment and 60 new jobs in Dorchester County.
- Mercedes-Benz Vans, a division of Daimler, a \$500-million investment and 1,300 new jobs in Charleston County.

For more information about this occupation and others, go to

www.SCWorkforceInfo.com

State Unemployment Rates

District Of Columbia	7.7
Mississippi	7.1
Nevada	7.1
Louisiana	7.0
California	6.9
Tennessee	6.7
Arizona	6.6
South Carolina	6.6
Rhode Island	6.5
Georgia	6.4
Washington	6.4
Alaska	6.3
Connecticut	6.3
Michigan	6.3
New Jersey	6.3
Oregon	6.3
Illinois	6.1
Alabama	6.0
Indiana	6.0
New Mexico	5.9
West Virginia	5.9
New York	5.8
Florida	5.7
United States	5.7
Arkansas	5.6
Kentucky	5.5
Maryland	5.5
Missouri	5.5
North Carolina	5.4
Maine	5.2
Massachusetts	5.1
Ohio	5.1
Pennsylvania	5.1
Delaware	5.0
Wisconsin	5.0
Virginia	4.7
Montana	4.4
Texas	4.4
Colorado	4.2
Iowa	4.2
Kansas	4.2
Hawaii	4.1
Idaho	4.1
Vermont	4.1
New Hampshire	4.0
Wyoming	4.0
Oklahoma	3.9
Minnesota	3.7
South Dakota	3.4
Utah	3.4
Nebraska	2.9
North Dakota	2.8

South Carolina's Ranking Tied for 7th of 51 in January

According to the BLS, 24 states experienced decreases in their unemployment rates, eight states had increases, and 18 states and the District of Columbia remained unchanged. In January, South Carolina's rate ranked 7th highest out of 51. In the Southeast region, South Carolina's rate remained lower than Mississippi and Tennessee.

The most significant over-the-month acceleration in employment occurred in Idaho at 1.4 percent, followed by Hawaii at 0.9 percent and Utah at 0.7 percent. The largest reduction in employment was in Maine at -0.6 percent, followed by Louisiana and New Hampshire at -0.4 percent each.

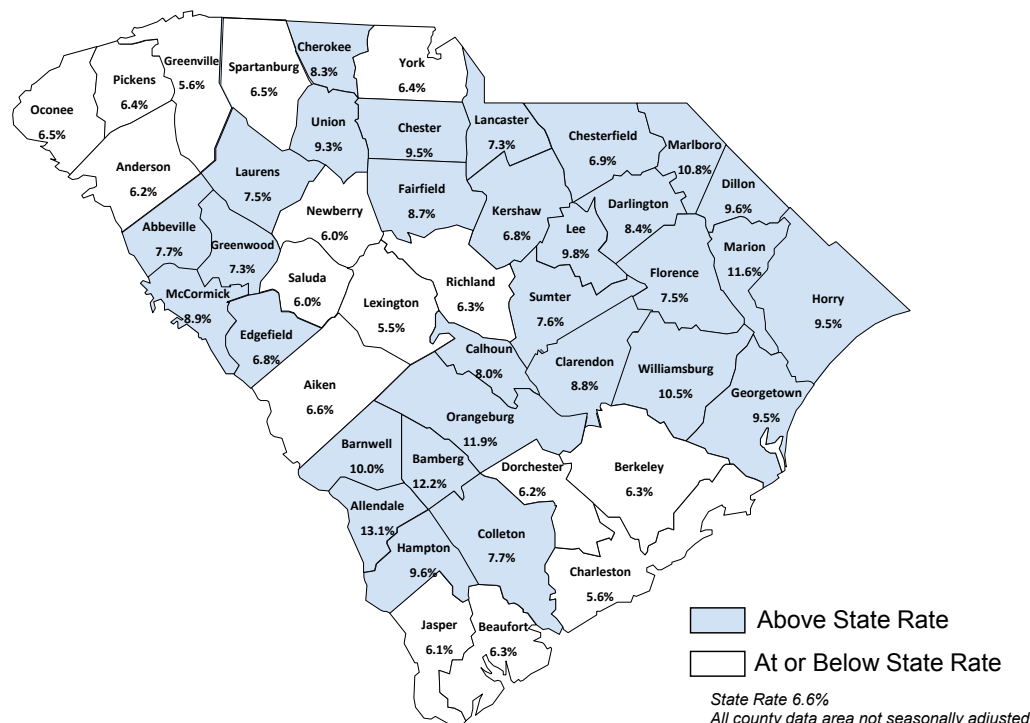
Over the year, non-farm employment increased in 49 states and the District of Columbia and decreased in Maine (-0.1 percent). The largest over-the-year uptrend occurred in North Dakota at 4.3 percent, followed by Utah at 4.0 percent and Florida and Nevada at 3.6 percent each.

January Unemployment Rate by County

Not-seasonally adjusted county unemployment rates increased in January, reflecting the increase in the statewide unemployment rate. Rates ranged from 13.2 percent in Allendale County to 5.5 percent in Lexington County.

At the time of this publication, benchmark revisions in county labor force data have not been completed in the annual benchmarking process by BLS. This process is expected to be completed by April 21.

Highest County Unemployment Rate		Lowest County Unemployment Rate	
Allendale	13.1%	Lexington	5.5%
Bamberg	12.2%	Charleston	5.6%
Orangeburg	11.9%	Greenville	5.6%
Marion	11.6%	Newberry	6.0%
Marlboro	10.8%	Saluda	6.0%



South Carolina Non-Farm Employment Trends for January

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted)

Seasonally adjusted, non-farm payroll employment in January increased by 2,500 to reach a record-high of 1,977,700. The largest increase was in Leisure and Hospitality (+3,100); followed by Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+1,600); Education and Health Services (+1,500); Other Services (+900); and Financial Activities (+500). Manufacturing (-1,700); Government (-1,400); Professional and Business Services (-1,200); Information (-400); and Construction (-300) recorded losses from December 2014 to January 2015.

Compared to a year ago, seasonally adjusted, non-farm jobs were up 49,500 with a large part of that in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+12,800) and Professional and Business Services (+11,000). Increases were also noted in Education and Health Services (+6,200); Leisure and Hospitality (+5,800); Government (+4,800); and Manufacturing (+4,400). Smaller gains were seen in Construction (+1,900); Other Services (+1,200); Financial Activities (+1,000); and Information (+400).

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Not-Seasonally Adjusted)

The not-seasonally adjusted, non-farm payroll employment in January decreased 30,000 from December 2014 to a level of 1,945,900. One industry saw growth: Other Services (+400). Industries with substantial decreases were Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-9,300); Professional and Business Services (-6,600); Government (-5,600); Manufacturing (-2,800); Education and Health Services (-2,700); Construction (-1,400); and Leisure and Hospitality (-1,200). Modest losses were in Information (-400); Financial Activities (-300); and Natural Resources and Mining (-100).

From January 2014 to January 2015, not-seasonally adjusted, non-farm jobs were up 54,200 overall in the Palmetto State. Industries marking strong annual gains were Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+13,500); Professional and Business Services (+10,500); Leisure and Hospitality (+8,100); Government (+5,200); Education and Health Services (+4,900); and Manufacturing (+4,900). Smaller increases were recorded in Construction (+2,600); Financial Activities (+2,100); Other Services (+1,800); and Information (+600).

MSAs

Metropolitan Statistical Areas' seasonally adjusted, total non-farm payroll employment saw decreases over the month in Charleston (-7,900), Columbia (-3,900), Florence (-900), and Sumter (-400).

Every MSA saw seasonally adjusted, payroll employment growth compared to a year ago. The largest increase was in Charleston (+8,400), followed by Columbia (+5,100), Florence (+2,300), and Sumter (+900).

To see the monthly data series, go to

www.SCWorkforceInfo.com

(Employment and Wage Data section)